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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

John E. Logan

February 11, 2000

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

*Ex Parte* Filing  
CC Docket No. 99-200

Dear Ms. Salas:

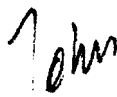
On February 10, 2000, Richard A. Karre and Tina S. Pyle of MediaOne Group and I met, at separate times, with Dorothy T. Attwood, Legal Advisor to Chairman William E. Kennard, Rebecca Beynon, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Harold Furchtgott-Roth, Kyle D. Dixon, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Michael K. Powell and Jordan Goldstein, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Susan Ness in connection with the referenced proceeding. At each meeting we described MediaOne's operations as a provider of competitive local exchange service and the adverse impact that the shortage of telephone numbers is having on its ability to provide service in certain states.

The details of MediaOne's presentation are contained in the enclosed 15-page document, which was distributed at the meetings. That document also contains the text of a proposed change to Part 52 of the Commission's rules regarding implementation of area code relief.

OHL

In accordance with the Commission's rules, the original and one copy of this letter and its enclosure are being filed with the Office of the Secretary for inclusion in the public record.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John E. Logan".

John E. Logan

Enclosure

cc: Dorothy T. Attwood, Esq. (w/o enclosure)  
Rebecca Beynon, Esq. "  
Kyle D. Dixon, Esq. "  
Jordan Goldstein, Esq. "



# Creating Consumer Choice In Local Telecommunications:

## MediaOne's Urgent Need for Numbering Resources

February 2000

FCC CC Docket No. 99-200

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# Agenda

- Introduction to MediaOne
- Overview
- Lack of Numbers Stifles Competition
- MediaOne's Telephone Number Shortage
- Recommendations

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## MediaOne's Domestic Broadband Service Areas



- **MediaOne is one of the largest broadband companies in the United States:**

- 8.5 million homes passed
- 5.0 million video customers
- Key markets:

1. Central California  
2. Los Angeles  
3. Minneapolis/St. Paul

4. Detroit  
5. Richmond  
6. Atlanta

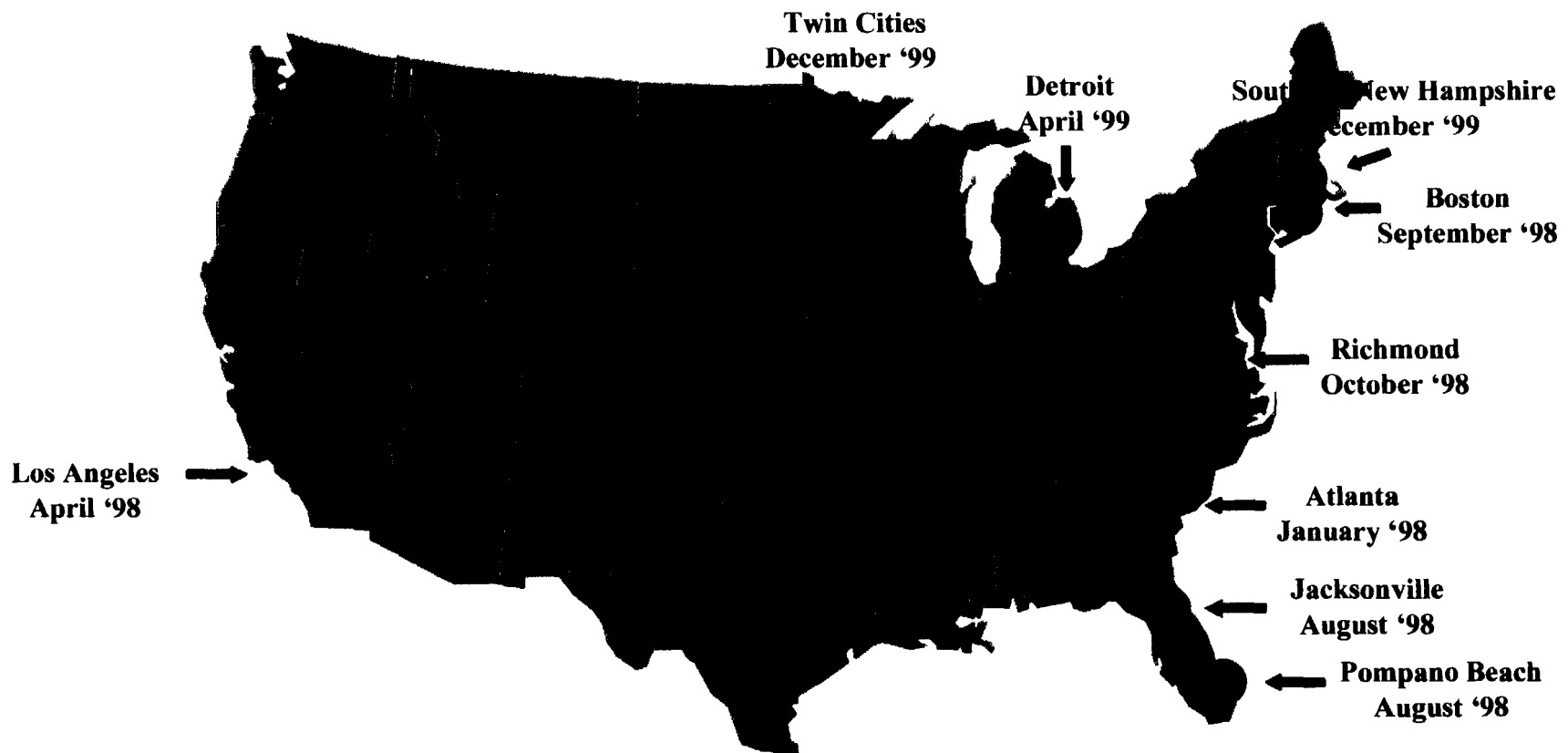
7. Jacksonville  
8. South Florida  
9. Northeast

- **At present, about 70% of MediaOne's network has been upgraded to 750 MHz, two-way.**

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# MediaOne Digital Telephone Services

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**MediaOne has launched facilities-based local telephone service to residential consumers in nine markets: Atlanta, Los Angeles, Jacksonville, Pompano Beach, Boston, Richmond, Detroit, the Twin Cities and southern New Hampshire.**

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# Overview

- Each area code has 792 “NXX codes” -- the first three digits of a local seven-digit telephone number.
  - Each NXX code contains 10,000 local telephone numbers.
  - Industry convention has been to assign an entire NXX code to a single carrier.
- Area codes are divided into geographic rate centers.
  - Carriers honor rate center boundaries to ensure uniform pricing of calls.
  - Therefore, carriers need an NXX code for each rate center they wish to serve.
    - Numbers not used in that rate center are not available for use elsewhere.

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## Lack of Numbers Stifles Competition

- If a competitor, such as MediaOne, does not have an NXX code in a rate center, it cannot serve residents of that rate center.
  - Existing customers can “port” their numbers, but a carrier cannot serve a new resident or provide additional telephone lines to an existing resident.
  - Competition is impaired, if not stopped completely, when numbers are near depletion and the state has not created a new area code.
  - Rationing and conservation cannot be substituted for new area codes if there is to be local competition.

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## Thousands-Block Pooling

- The FCC has authorized a number of states to conduct trials of thousands-block pooling.
  - Carriers are assigned numbers in a rate center in blocks of 1,000 (instead of 10,000).
  - For pooling to succeed, the area code must have sufficient thousands blocks available to assign to carriers -- if an area code is nearly out of numbers, thousands-block pooling will not provide the numbers needed by competitors.
- When an area code is exhausted, the only remedy is a new area code.

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## MediaOne's Telephone Number Shortage

- In three of the states it serves, MediaOne has been unable to provide competitive local service to residential customers solely due to a lack of numbering resources:
  - California
  - Massachusetts
  - New Hampshire

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# California

- MediaOne planned to offer residential local telephony to four additional communities in the 310 area code (Los Angeles) in July 1999.
  - In these four communities, MediaOne's telephony-ready network passes 44,000 homes.
  - MediaOne obtained the necessary NXX codes in the to-be-implemented new area code.
  - The California PUC suspended the new area code, leaving MediaOne without codes and unable to offer service.

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## California (Continued)

- Through sharing arrangements with other carriers and the final wireline code lottery, MediaOne has obtained a minimum supply of numbers to launch in these four communities.
- However, MediaOne needs additional numbers throughout the 310 area code to meet customer demand.
- Thousands-block pooling is scheduled to be implemented in March 2000.
  - Projections indicate that there are insufficient numbering resources remaining in the 310 area code to accommodate forecasted needs for even the first 18 months of pooling.
- The 310 area code is exhausted and a new area code is necessary if consumers are to have competitive choices for their local service.

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# Massachusetts

- MediaOne provides service in four Massachusetts area codes, all of which are in jeopardy and subject to rationing.
- In the first half of 2000, MediaOne requires 23 codes to serve additional communities, and it will most likely need that many again in the second half of the year.
- Despite regular participation in the monthly lottery, MediaOne continues to face severe number shortages.
- On 12/16/99, MediaOne requested additional codes outside of the current rationing plan.
  - MediaOne limited its request to 8 codes -- enough to meet its needs through April 2000.
  - The Massachusetts DTE has indicated it will decide the matter in the near future.

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## Massachusetts (Continued)

- MediaOne is pursuing sharing arrangements with other carriers, but they will not enable MediaOne to serve its entire customer base.
- The DTE plans to implement thousands-block pooling, but no date has been set.
- MediaOne's plans to provide competitive local service to additional Massachusetts consumers will be delayed -- due solely to a lack of numbering resources.

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## **New Hampshire**

- MediaOne also faces a severe lack of numbering resources in New Hampshire.
- The New Hampshire PUC hopes to implement thousands-block number pooling on May 1.
- In the first quarter of this year, MediaOne will be unable to serve approximately 38,000 homes simply due to the lack of numbers.

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## Recommendations

- Conservation and rationing alone will not solve number shortages.
- The FCC must make clear that, where numbers are depleted, a new area code must be implemented.
  - See next page for recommended rule.
- The FCC should order the prompt nationwide rollout of thousands-block pooling.
- The FCC should order a uniform set of federal definitions and rules to optimize number utilization.

## **Recommended Rule Change**

Section 52.19 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR § 52.19, is amended by adding a new subsection (d) to read as follows:

- (d) In resolving matters involving the introduction of new area codes within their states, state commissions may not engage in number conservation or rationing measures to the exclusion of, or as a substitute for, timely area code relief. Specifically, a state commission:
  - (1) shall order implementation of area code relief when numbering resources have become so depleted that steps taken to conserve or ration numbering resources preclude carriers from offering services,
  - (2) may institute a process for the rationing of central-office codes only where the state commission has ordered area code relief, established a relief date, and attempts to reach consensus on a rationing plan among industry participants have failed,
  - (3) may, subject to the conditions below, implement thousands-block pooling in any area code under its jurisdiction.
    - (i) A state commission may not institute a process for the rationing of thousands blocks, where thousands-block pooling has been implemented
    - (ii) In conjunction with the implementation of thousands-block pooling, a state commission must create, as expeditiously as possible, a contingency plan for area code relief for the area code(s) subject to thousands-block pooling.